



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

Issue: 07-04 Released: February 28, 2007

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## 2006 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2006 all wheat crop rose 1 percent from 2005 to \$703.5 million. All wheat production was down 20 percent from last year, but the season average price increased \$0.97 per bushel. The preliminary 2006 season average price for all wheat was \$4.60 per bushel compared with \$3.63 last season.

The value of Montana's winter wheat crop was a record high with an increase of 14 percent from last year to \$379.8 million. The preliminary season average price was \$1.09 higher than last year at \$4.60 per bushel. Spring wheat's value of production was down 5 percent from 2005 to \$293.5 million. The season average price increased \$0.80 per bushel to \$4.60. Durum wheat's season average price rose \$1.05 from 2005 to \$4.50 per bushel. The value of the durum wheat crop was \$30.2 million, down 47 percent from 2005, due to a 59 percent decrease in production from last year.

The value of Montana's oat crop dropped 25 percent from 2005 to \$2.3 million due to a decrease in production from the previous year. The season

average price was up \$0.42 to \$2.05 per bushel. Total value of production for barley was estimated at \$93.0 million, down 19 percent from the previous year due to a drop in production. The 2006 season average price, at \$3.00 was up \$0.08 from 2005. Corn for grain value of production for 2006 was estimated at \$9.2 million dollars, up 44 percent from 2005. The average price per bushel increased \$0.96 to \$3.50.

Montana's value of production for flaxseed decreased 67 percent from 2005 to \$1.9 million dollars in 2006, due to a decrease in production. The season average price per bushel increased \$0.10 from last year to \$6.30. The value of the canola crop in 2006 was \$1.3 million, down 33 percent due to a decrease in production. Canola's season price per cwt increased \$2.70 from last year to \$11.70. Dry edible beans value of production was estimated at \$6.3 million, up 19 percent from 2005 due to higher prices. The average price rose \$1.90 per cwt to \$20.50 per cwt.

Value of production for dry edible peas in Montana, at \$12.7 million was a record high, jumping 20 percent above the 2005 value of \$10.5 million due to sharply increased production. The average price per cwt increased \$1.34 to \$6.14. Austrian winter peas value of production for the 2006 crop dropped to \$1.0 million from \$1.4 million in 2005. The average price per cwt was \$8.94, up \$0.27 from last year. Lentils value of production dropped to \$7.8 million from \$17.8 million in 2005 due to a large

decrease in production. The average price increased \$0.19 to \$9.73 per cwt.

Montana's value of production for potatoes was a record high at \$33.2 million, a 5 percent increase from the previous year due to higher prices and increased production. The average price was \$9.45 per cwt, \$0.30 above 2005. Sugar beets value of production for 2005 is estimated at \$51.8 million, up 12 percent from the previous year. The season average price increased \$4.50 per ton from 2004 to \$45.30 per ton.

The 2006 season average price for all hay increased \$6.00 from last year to \$77.00 per ton. The value of production was down 18 percent to \$334.7 million due to decreased production. Alfalfa hay's 2006 season average price was estimated at \$76.50, up \$5.50 per ton from last year and other hay's season average price increased \$12.50 to \$80.50.

## Alfalfa Seed 2006

Alfalfa seed production for 2006 was estimated at 4.3 million pounds, up 70% from the 2005 production. Harvested acreage at 10,700 was up 4,600 acres from last year's acreage of 6,100 acres. The Montana average yield was estimated at 399 pounds per acre, down from the 413 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 518 pounds per acre, up from 450 pounds in 2005, and non-irrigated yields averaged 215 pounds per acre, down from 224 pounds last year. (continued on page two)

## Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2006

Main Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2000									
District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	1,500	390	585,000	--	--	--	--	--	--
Northeast	1,500	410	615,000	600	500	300,000	900	350	315,000
South Central	5,100	492	2,507,000	4,400	551	2,424,000	700	119	83,000
Southeast	2,400	197	473,000	300	177	53,000	2,100	200	420,000
Other Districts	200	450	90,000	1,200	492	590,000	500	170	85,000
Montana	10,700	399	4,270,000	6,500	518	3,367,000	4,200	215	903,000
Districts with no estimate have been confided to prevent the disclosure of individual information.									

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## **Alfalfa Seed** (continued from page one)

Producers who used leaf cutter bees in 2006 used an average of 3.0 gallons of bees per acre, down 0.2 gallons from a year ago. Leaf cutter bees were used on 45% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 3.0 gallons per acre. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees produced an average of 62% more seed per acre than those that did not use bees to pollinate their crop.

Proprietary varieties made up 78% of this year's production, common uncertified varieties accounted for 12% of the production and common certified varieties represented 10%.

The average price received for the 2006 crop was \$1.13 per pound, unchanged from last year's average price.

## **Small Grain County Estimates for 2006 Now Available**

The 2006 crop year county estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat, and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre, and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops. Non-irrigated wheat and barley crops are further divided into cropping practices for acres that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates only have irrigated and non-irrigated practices. These estimates are available on our website at [www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/) or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

## **U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 3 Percent**

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on February 1, 2007. The inventory was 3 percent below February 1, 2006 but 3 percent above February 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.69 million, 23 percent below 2006 and 10 percent below 2005. Net placements were 1.59 million. This is the second lowest placements for the month of January since the series began in 1996. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 390,000, 700-799 pounds were 545,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 435,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.84 million, up 2 percent from 2006 and up 4 percent from 2005. Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during January, 17 percent above 2006 and 33 percent above 2005.

## **January U.S. and Canadian Cattle Inventory Down Slightly**

This publication is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on February 2, 2007.

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 111.3 million head on January 1, 2007, down slightly from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.1 million head, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2007, totaled 97.0 million head, slightly above the 96.7 million on January 1, 2006.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of January 1, 2007, totaled 14.3 million head, down 3 percent from the 14.8 million on January 1, 2006, and 5 percent below the 15.1 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.0 million, was down 4 percent from the 6.3 million on January 1, 2006, and 5 percent below the 6.4 million from two years ago.

## **January 2007 Red Meat Production**

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2007, up 45 percent from December 2006 and up 3 percent from January 2006. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,201 pounds increased 35 pounds from last year.

During January there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 250 pounds, rose 3 pounds from last year. January sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, unchanged from January 2006. The average live weight dropped 14 pounds from last year to 106 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in January, up 5 percent from the 3.90 billion pounds produced in January 2006.

Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.80 million head, up 6 percent from January 2006. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,290 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.3 million pounds, 21 percent above January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,300 head, 34 percent above January 2006. The average live weight was down 31 pounds from last year, at 324 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.90 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.37 million head, 5 percent above January 2006. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.1 million pounds, was 7 percent below January 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 216,700 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from January a year ago.

## **January Milk Production Up 1.4 Percent**

Milk production in the 23 major States during January totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from January 2006. December production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 2.8 percent from December 2005.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,719 pounds for January, 8 pounds above January 2006.

The number of cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 81,000 head more than January 2006, and 3,000 head more than December 2006.

The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2006 was 182 billion pounds, 2.8 percent above 2005. Revisions to 2005 production decreased the annual total 60 million pounds. Revised 2006 production was down slightly from last month's publication.

Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 19,951 pounds for 2006, 386 pounds above 2005. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 18.3 percent from 1997.

The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2006 was 9.11 million head, up 0.8 percent from 2005. The average number of milk cows was revised up 2,000 head for 2005, and down 3,000 head for 2006.

## **February Potato Stocks**

Montana potato producers held 3.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2007, up 3 percent from the previous year. This number represents 97 percent of the 2006 potato crop production.

The 13 major potato States held 188 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2007, down 1 percent from last year and 7 percent below February 1, 2005, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage

season. Potatoes in storage account for 49 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks were added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 2.60 million cwt on February 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 194 million cwt from the start of harvest to February 1, is up 5 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 18.2 million cwt, is up 8 percent from the previous year.

Processors have used 106 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago and 5 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 11 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 17 percent above the same date in 2006, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 4 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 21.3 million cwt of the total processing, up 11 percent from last year but 3 percent below the same date in 2005.

Western States held 131 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, down 6 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 2 percent from last year, Washington's potato sheds held 10 percent less than last year, and Oregon's stocks declined 19 percent from last season. Colorado potato sheds held 2 percent more stocks than last year, Montana's stocks are up 3 percent from 2006, and California's potato stocks increased 18 percent from last season.

Central States accounted for 44.7 million cwt of potato stocks on February 1, up 13 percent from last year. Wisconsin's potato stocks increased 11 percent from last year, North Dakota's sheds held 28 percent more, Minnesota stocks are up 8 percent, and potato stocks in Michigan are 13 percent above last season. Nebraska's potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2006.

Eastern States stored 12.6 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, up 11

percent from last year. Maine's potato sheds held 19 percent more than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 35 percent from a year ago.

## **January U.S. Egg Production Down 1 Percent**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.64 billion during January 2007, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.54 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2007 averaged 347 million, down 1 percent from last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,200 eggs, down slightly from January 2006.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2007 totaled 347 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 347 million layers consisted of 288 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.81 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2007, averaged 70.7 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from February 1, 2006.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2007 totaled 36.9 million, up 4 percent from January 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.0 million on February 1, 2007, up 10 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 265,000 during January 2007, up 41 percent from January 2006.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during January 2007 totaled 797 million, down 1 percent from January 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 649 million on February 1, 2007, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.02 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2007, up 3 percent from January 2006.

#### COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates	Honey Production
Sheep & Lamb Losses	Ag Prices Received
Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production	

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